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EXTRAORDINARY TENDENCY TO THE FORMATION OF URINARY CALCULI.

BY THOMAS SEWALL, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

SALVADOR CATALANO, aged 72, a native of Italy, came to this country in 1805, in the capacity of sailing master. Soon after his arrival he was employed by our government, in the Navy Yard at Washington, as an inspector of ordnance. He had hitherto possessed a robust and vigorous constitution, and a remarkable exemption from bodily infirmity. About twenty years since, while at work in the yard, he received a severe blow over the loins from an iron bar. Immediately after the accident he felt a desire to void urine, and upon making the effort, discharged a considerable quantity of this fluid, mixed with blood. This was followed by severe pain in the region of the kidneys, attended with symptomatic fever; but after a few weeks' confinement, he was so far relieved as to return to his accustomed occupation. From this time he suffered more or less from weakness and stiffness of the loins, and from pain in the region of the kidneys, ureters and bladder, which occasionally extended down the thighs to the knees, and when most severe was followed by a swelling of the testes.

About four years from the time of the accident, having suffered for some days from an attack of acute pain travelling down in the direction of the left ureter, he discovered in his urine a number of calculi, about the eighth of an inch in diameter, ragged and angular. From this time he was induced to inspect his urine as it was discharged, and to filtrate it, and found that it yielded from a half to a full teaspoon of calculi daily. For one or two years he preserved the calculi thus collected, placing the product of each day in an apartment by itself. Within a few days I have examined his cabinet of calculi, consisting of several hundred parcels, which he preserves as a curiosity, and values above all price. From the slight examination I made, I should judge that each parcel contained from twenty grains to two drachms. They were obtained by first filtrating the urine, and then washing the residuum in several waters, so that a considerable portion of the finer part of the concretions were washed away, as he told me, with the dregs.

This patient still continues to discharge about the same amount of calculi as formerly, and from the account which he gave me, and from the specimens in his possession, I should suppose that the kidneys must

have elaborated not less than one drachm daily for the last fifteen years, amounting in all to a little more than forty-five pounds.

I have had no opportunity of ascertaining the chemical composition of this formation, as no analysis has been made; but judging from appearance, there is a difference in the constitution of the portions voided at different times, as they are somewhat various in color, as well as in texture and size.

For some years the habits of Catalano have been sedentary. He lives mostly on vegetable food, with a small proportion of animal broth, and takes a few glasses of gin and water daily. He also drinks freely of melon and flax-seed tea, and also elm and other mucilaginous diuretic preparations. But the article from which he derives the most benefit, is the Harlem oil, which he takes in doses of twenty-five drops every other night. This medicine, he assures me, not only acts as a diuretic, but prevents the formation of calculi of large size, and that when he takes it the most freely the concretions are voided in the form of sand.

I have regretted that this patient could not be placed under the inspection of Dr. Charles T. Jackson, of Boston, who has devoted much attention to this subject, as it seems to afford a favorable opportunity for ascertaining, by a series of experiments, the influence of medicine, and the different kinds of diet, &c. upon the formation and chemical constitution of urinary calculi.

Washington City, May 8, 1839.

CASE OF ACUTE HEPATITIS.

BY H. H. ALLEN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE following case will fully illustrate the importance of keeping constantly in mind the old adage, "*nil desperandum*," and will also show the influence which calomel, in large doses, is able to effect over the diseases of the liver.

On the 28th of June, 1838, I visited John Foster, and found him laboring under a severe attack of acute hepatitis. He was a laborer of about 38 years of age, and previous to his illness he had been at work on the breakwater then being built at the entrance of Portland harbor. Three days before I saw him, he had received a hurt in the region of the liver, but still continued to work during the whole of one day, regardless of the injury. On the day after the receipt of the hurt, he was attacked with severe pain in the liver, accompanied with violent vomiting. The pain and other alarming symptoms continued to increase, and on the third day of his sickness, when I saw him, he was in the following condition. Every part of the surface of his body was literally as yellow as an orange; his countenance wore a bloated and deathly aspect; his pulse was exceedingly rapid, and so feeble as to be scarcely perceptible; the tongue was very thickly coated with a dark-brown fur; his bowels had not been moved since the receipt of the injury, and he was complaining of the most excruciating pain through the region of

the liver and back; the region below the liver was very much swollen, and excessively tender to the touch, and his back and whole system were so much affected that he could not bear the least movement, without crying out as loud as his now nearly exhausted powers of life would permit. Indeed, he appeared, in everything, like a dying man, and had already been given up to his fate by the attending physician.

Under these circumstances his case looked desperate indeed, and seemed to call for the exertion of something more than human skill to snatch him from the grave. At first I declined doing anything for him, looking upon his case as an irremediable one; but at the urgent solicitation of his friends, I consented to prescribe. He had already been bled to a great extent, and the region of the liver had been blistered. I therefore took no more blood, but ordered ten grains of calomel to be administered to him every hour, and hot fomentations to be applied to his side and back.

29th. I saw him again, and found him somewhat relieved of pain. Ordered the calomel to be continued, with the addition of ten grains of jalap to each dose.

30th. The calomel had not as yet operated as a purge; mouth a little affected. Ceased giving the calomel; ordered an injection, and gave a dose of castor oil, to which was added one drop of the croton oil. The next day, when I saw him, at two o'clock, P. M., he had had free evacuations from the bowels; pain in the region of the liver nearly subsided; and, indeed, he appeared better in every sense of the word.

From this time he continued to improve daily, and in two weeks he was able to go out. His skin, however, wore a yellow tinge a long while, it being more than a month before it assumed its natural color.

In this case more than an ounce of calomel was given; and it appeared to be the chief agent, the *magnum remedium*, although by some it may be called the *anceps remedium*, in effecting the cure.

Gray, Me., April, 1839.

EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE VOICE OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—The use of tobacco, I perceive, is exciting some attention in the Journal. I should like to make a few remarks, and if I do not agree with those who as moral reformers proscribe it as a useless, disgusting and dirty practice, absolutely deleterious and destructive to health, it is not because I am an advocate for its use; for it is a very disgusting sight, whether from association, prejudice, or whatever other cause, to my eyes. But truth is to be followed, wherever it may lead us, and our sensibilities must succumb.

I have not had much experience as it regards clergymen, and the effects that tobacco has on the voice of public speakers. But I have had some knowledge of its use in almost all other classes in society; have used it myself in smoking, more or less, for upwards of thirty years; and though I have heard it proscribed by the more sensitive of

physicians and others, still I was not, and am not now, able to discover that its effects on the nervous or general system are so pernicious as many would have us to believe, and, among them, Dr. Woodward. I should like to believe that the effects are deleterious, for I do think it a very idle, unseemly and unsightly practice; and I hope Dr. Woodward will, in his promised communication, be able to prove that the use of it is hurtful. But while we see so many in the constant use of it, and apparently enjoying good health, it is difficult to believe that it militates against health in any considerable degree. Its first effects, we know, are powerful and dangerous, producing sickness, tremors, cold sweats, &c.; but after the system becomes a little accustomed to its use, it is constantly exposed to its influence without any sensible good or bad effects. That snuff affects the voice, will not be denied; but it is a question whether the *power* of the voice is affected, even by snuff. The voice takes an unpleasant sound, owing to the nasal passages, as I view it, being thickened and closed, by the continued stimulus of the snuff.

It does appear to me, so far as my observation has extended, that the class of people who use tobacco, in chewing or smoking, are the most robust and healthy part of the community. None chew and smoke more than sailors, and certainly they are a hardy and robust class. Many elderly women are confined to their pipe as to their food, smoking regularly after every meal, and live to a good old age. *

A word with respect to its leading to drinking. I am inclined to the opinion that drinking leads to smoking, rather than the reverse. The cigar is used to while away the time till another glass is wanted. They are so far connected and associated. But the use of tobacco calls moisture into the mouth, and would therefore seem to preclude the necessity of frequent drinking. Chewers and smokers spit a great deal, and it is this effect of the tobacco that is the most disgusting; although I know many who do not spit at all, but swallow all the increase of saliva made by the tobacco, and apparently without any of the specific effects upon the system.

R. A. M.

Topsfield, Ms., May 15, 1839.

LOSS OF VOICE AND HEALTH IN CLERGYMEN.—NO. I.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

My father was a Congregational clergyman, and from that circumstance I had an early knowledge of many of his brethren in the vicinity. From fifty-five to sixty years ago, I well recollect a neighboring minister who had lost his voice, so as often to be unable to speak above a whisper. He continued to preach, but his efforts were very disagreeable to

* I know several men who have constantly a cigar in their mouths, excepting only when eating, sleeping, or at church, and they are evidently the most perfect specimens of health, vigor and energy; and they are abstinents, so far as all intoxicating drinks are concerned. So far as my observation extends, those and those only who are in health use tobacco. It is loathed in sickness, and I have thought that one of the surest symptoms of returning health, was a relish for the accustomed quid or cigar.

all but his own parishioners, who were accustomed to hear him. The difficulty was said to be the result of ill health, which he experienced in his early ministry. He was well when I knew him, however, and lived to be upwards of seventy years of age, preaching till within a year or two of his death. He was of a convivial turn, quite a smoker, and indulged full as freely in flip and toddy, as was compatible with his dignity and character, at that day.

More than thirty-five years ago, I knew a Baptist minister, who lost his voice so as to speak only in a whisper, during a state of ill health for a year or two. He afterwards recovered both health and voice, and died of an acute disease, perhaps fourteen years since.

I mention these cases, and have an indistinct recollection of some others, which go to show that loss of voice, though more frequent within the last twenty years, was not unknown among clergymen at a much earlier period. In one case, at least, tobacco was not a preventive.

Half a century ago, most of our clergymen labored some, particularly in the time of getting hay. Nearly all made their gardens and cut their wood; and several of them did considerable towards cultivating their own small farms. Their parochial duties were comparatively light; they seldom preaching more than two sermons a week; and from the composition of these they were frequently relieved, by exchanges about once a month, or oftener during summer. Most of them smoked tobacco, and some of them chewed. I recollect but one old minister who took snuff. They all drank cider daily, and when fatigued generally took some flip or toddy. Very few of them, if any, however, were in the habit of drinking ardent spirit daily. That refreshing drink, small beer made from malt, was considered as being nearly as necessary as bread, in a family. Thus they frequently led very quiet and regular lives, without being exposed to intense excitement of mind, or over fatigue of body. On the whole they were probably as healthy, and lived as long, as most other classes of the community. My own father lacked only about two months of being eighty-eight years old, when he died.

Within the last twenty years, it would seem that clergymen, in about equal proportions in our different denominations, have been breaking down by scores, and more particularly, as respects their voice. I have been more familiar with these cases among the Methodists, Episcopalians, and Congregationalists, though I presume there is a proportional number among the Baptists.

There have been some very striking changes in the condition of most of the clergy of New England, since the commencement of the present century. In the first place their duties are much increased, public opinion requiring of them, in most places, much greater exertion than their predecessors commonly made. The religious meetings, benevolent associations, societies for promoting various objects, and new organizations of almost every description, are perhaps ten times as numerous as they were forty years ago. To say that four times as many sermons and addresses are now delivered before a given population, as was formerly the case, would be an estimate probably much below the fact. Besides these additional labors, the habits and manner of living, of very many

clergymen, are essentially changed. Few now have either leisure or land to enable them to attend to agriculture. Most of them have renounced tobacco. When they are fatigued, the slow process of self-restoration is adopted, instead of the expedient of more suddenly reviving the exhausted powers of the system by the diffusible stimuli. Alcohol in all its forms is proscribed. Few use wine, and most even dispense with cider. Many families have dropped the use of coffee, some of tea, and a considerable number have materially lessened the quantity of animal food. Malt beer, that ancient, harmless beverage, is scarcely known.

In these great changes, in duties, labors, habits, and manner of living, to my view, there is nothing strange in a proportional change in the quantity of health, for the better or the worse. And since in ministers the organs of speech are the most fatigued, and debilitated from over exercise, it is no wonder that they soonest give out. A few may keep up under almost any kind of fatigue and hardship; but a considerable proportion, under such exertions, and such a change of their early habits and manner of living, must prematurely break down.

The principal cause of the frequent removal of ministers, at the present day, is obviously the same. In three-fourths or nine-tenths of the instances, they are dismissed from their people at their own request, and not from any dislike of their parishioners. They find it impossible to compose two new sermons a week, while they are employed in so many other contingent labors. They must occupy a new field, where they may avail themselves of their old manuscripts. In this movement, however, they often do very little more than "change the place, but keep the pain." That these changes do not effect much, is evident, because among the Methodists, who rarely are stationed more than two years at a time in one place, there are as many invalid ministers as in any other sect among us.

With respect to diet and regimen, though I think I have known many victims to starvation and cold water, I shall now say nothing. The greatest difficulty is, the clergy, as a body, labor too hard and too much. If the spirit of the age actually requires such excessive ministerial duties, the only remedy is to follow the example of the Catholics, and increase the number of ecclesiastics, to lighten their individual labors and burdens. In fact, our puritanic ancestors had more than double the ministers of the present day, in proportion to their population. Almost every small congregation was provided with its pastor, and its teacher, while the ruling elders did many of the duties now performed by the minister.

When we consider the excessive labors, in particular places, which ministers either assume or have imposed on them, in certain seasons, the great wonder is, not that so many, but that all, do not break down, and leave their flocks destitute of pastors. At such periods, too, there is generally an ultra temperance, by which the exhausted body is further debilitated by a diminution of nutritious food, and a disuse of every kind of generous drink. Even tobacco, which is such a great solace to the sailor and soldier on fatigue, is proscribed.

Such is the outline of my views upon the principal causes of loss of voice, and of the derangement of health, in modern clergymen. I may be mistaken in my opinions. It is not my wish to wound the feelings of any man, or to speak lightly of the movements of any conscientious body of christians. I would merely state the more prominent facts, as they strike me, and submit them to the consideration of the wise and prudent, wishing myself that my ideas may have no weight, if they are found not to deserve it, upon mature deliberation. SENEX.

May 18, 1839.

COUNTER-IRRITATION.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I wish to inquire, through your Journal, if any physicians of the U. States are known to have made trial of Granville's plan of *counter-irritation*; and if so, what have been the results. If one may believe him, he has been wonderfully successful; and if the 100 cases which he reports are true, then his *antidynous* lotion is an invaluable remedy. I wish further to inquire if ammonia, such as Dr. Granville uses, is to be had at the shops in Boston. He says it is more than three times the strength of the ammonia of the London Pharmacopœia. Can such ammonia be obtained in your city? and can we likewise procure distilled spirits of rosemary, prepared according to his directions, as given in the London Lancet of October last, and copied into the December No. (17) of the American Medical Library and Intelligencer? If so, where may these articles be found?* Most respectfully yours, &c.,

St. Johnsbury, Vt., May 2, 1839. CALVIN JEWETT.

OPHTHALMIC REPORT.

First Annual Report of the Ophthalmic Cases treated at the Northern Dispensary, New York, under the charge of Drs. Blakeman and Wallace. Reported by Dr. Wallace for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

1. Diseases of the Anterior Membrane	Pterygium	1	
	Strumous ophthalmia	24	
2. Conjunctiva vera	Inflammation, 1. Catarrhal	80	
	do. (2 Cons.) *a* Granular	21	
	do. (2 Cons.) *b* Villous	5	
	do. (2 Cons.) *c* Pale œdematous	5	
	do. (2 Cons.) *d* Pale granular	1	
	do. 3. Of new-born children	2	
	do. 4. Gonorrhœal	1	
3. Sclerotica	do. (1) 5. Catarrho-rheumat.	10	
	do. (2) Rheumatic	1	
4. Cornea	Inflammation, strumous	1	
	Cicatrices and effusions	10	
	Injuries	14	
5. Iris.	Inflammation, 1. Rheumatic	1	
	do. 2. Strumous	1	
	do. 3. Syphilitic	1	
6. Crystalline Lens	Cataract (lenticular)	2	
	Glaucoma	3	
7. Retina	Amblyopia	9	
	Amaurosis	4	
	Hemeralopia	1	
8. Adjusting Apparatus	Myopia	2	
	Presbyopia	1	
9. Eyelids	Tinea	17	
	Inflammation from measles	5	
	Warts	1	
	Abscess	1	
	Stye	7	
	Burns	1	
	Tumors	5	
10. Lachrymal Apparatus	Epiphora	3	
	Fistula	2	
	Mucocele	1	
		355	

The strumous cases readily yielded to the nitrate of silver as a local

* On inquiry, it has been ascertained that both articles may be had of Brewer & Co. druggists, No. 92 Washington street.—ED.

application, and Lugol's solution of iodine, preceded by an emetic, taken inwardly.

The contagious ophthalmia is an obstinate disease, and there is much room for improvement in its treatment. Of the numerous remedies which were tried, the sulphate of copper, aided by the internal exhibition of blue pill, was the most beneficial.

During the wars of Napoleon, the disease was brought from Egypt to England and France, and the disabled soldiers scattered over these countries, where it existed for some time, before its nature and method of treatment were discovered by Sir William Adams. Some ten or twelve years ago, by order of the British Government, their pensioners, among whom were many afflicted with this disease, were permitted to commute their pensions for lands in Canada, and a sum of money for outfit. As soldiers are not usually fond of labor, it is probable that some of them found their way to this city, and were admitted to the alms-house. At any rate, about that time the disease was disseminated with frightful rapidity; one of the surgeons lost an eye, and many of the children became totally blind. After the severity of the disease abated, it assumed a milder form, having for its characteristic, villosity of the eyelids. This obstinate disease prevails to a great extent in public institutions. The new comers are soon affected by washing in the same water, using the same towel, or applying the water in some other way; and as the disease is seated beneath the upper eyelid, where it is not seen, the guardians of the poor will not be convinced of the nature of the complaint. From these institutions servants are frequently taken, who disseminate this variety of ophthalmia even amongst the highest in society. I have seen a severe case occasioned by washing in a barber's basin. I have also known it to be communicated to teachers of Sunday schools. These are pretty plain proofs of the necessity of public liberality in supporting medical institutions, and affording facilities for medical education.

The ophthalmia of new-born children, which is so fatal when neglected, we found to be very easily cured, by urging the necessity of cleanliness, and at our visits removing the acrid matter by syringing the eye with tepid water. Weak solutions of the sulphate of copper or zinc, or of the nitrate of silver, once or twice a day, were almost all that were necessary.

In the only case of gonorrhœal ophthalmia that presented itself, the eye was lost. The patient had contracted the disease by sleeping with a person affected with gonorrhœa. As he was not aware of the rapid progress of the complaint, four days were allowed to elapse before he applied for relief. At his first appearance at the dispensary, the cornea was about to slough from the strangulation of its vessels by the swollen conjunctiva. Though the most active treatment was adopted, the coats soon gave way, and the eye burst.

One of the cases of cataract was treated by entering the needle through the sclerotica, and breaking the lens *in situ*. Though the person was advanced in age, the diseased lens was soon absorbed, and with the aid of glasses he can now see the most minute object. Another

case was treated after Dr. Jacob's plan. One of the finest sewing needles that could be procured—a No. 16 sharp—was fixed to a handle and introduced through the cornea to the diseased lens, and the latter broken as effectually as possible. As much absorption has not taken place, the operation will require to be repeated. In private practice we have treated several cases in this manner with the most satisfactory result. Little or no inflammation follows the operation, and almost no skill is required in its performance. On the third patient it was not deemed advisable to operate.

The case of glaucoma afforded us an opportunity of being convinced of the utility of Sanson's method of examining the eye, and of appreciating Professor Mackenzie's opinion that glaucoma is not owing to partial opacity of the vitreous humor, as was supposed; but that the seat of the disease was the crystalline lens.

Having heard so much of the effects of veratrine, it was tried in a case of amaurosis where strychnine and other remedies had failed. The skin being removed from a blister on the temple, the powder was scarcely dusted on the surface when the patient screamed with acute pain. He danced about like a madman, and when somewhat appeased, though a full-grown man, he wept like a child. This is related as a caution.

The removal of tumors has been frequently effected by an ointment composed of a scruple of the iodo-hydrargyrate of potassium to an ounce of lard. This preparation produces counter-irritation by exciting a peculiar herpetic eruption, while at the same time the mercury and iodine of this very soluble salt produce absorption of adventitious matter. Its good effects have been experienced in discussing tumors in various parts of the body. A rather remarkable case occurred about three months ago. The patient, who was of a strumous habit, had received a blow on the temple about Christmas last. Shortly afterwards there arose on the edge of the orbit a swelling, which had increased to such a degree that in the month of March, when he applied, he was unable to open the eyelids. The tumor appeared to be exostosis; the probable consequences of which, in such a situation, seemed rather alarming. The ointment was applied every two or three days or as often as it could be borne, and in the course of six weeks there was scarcely a vestige of the complaint. This valuable addition to the materia medica was introduced to the profession by Dr. Channing, of this city, who published an account of it in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, in 1833. Since that time it has been found in very many cases an agreeable substitute for the knife.

As was to have been expected, the patients have not been numerous. Perhaps another year may afford a greater variety.

May, 1839.

TEETH AND THEIR DISEASES.

[The following sensible and philosophical remarks are by E. G. Tucker, M.D., extracted from a manuscript discourse.]

The fundamental error with regard to the preservation of the teeth

arises from the mistaken notion of the inorganic nature of these parts of the animal economy. The teeth, in their external physical appearance, resemble inorganic bodies, and the superficial observer can hardly be convinced that they possess *any*, still less a *high degree* of organization. By this term organization is meant the possession of an internal structure of parts, adapted to the performance of peculiar functions.

These parts, this organization, consist chiefly of minute vessels conveying fluids. Not the grosser fluids; not the blood in its totality, but its finer parts, and such probably as are adapted to the production and nourishment of the peculiarly dense osseous structure of which the teeth and their enamel are composed.

Thin lamellæ from the teeth of the largest quadrupeds have been ground down so as to be semi-transparent. They have then, when strongly illuminated, been viewed through microscopes of high magnifying power; and in this way, different orders of vessels have been abundantly demonstrated. Perhaps the question of the organic or inorganic nature of the masticating organs is seldom presented to the mind of the careless observer of nature as a distinct proposition. But they all proceed in their treatment of these organs as if they supposed them inorganic. The common language, too, used in speaking of their diseases, clearly points to such an opinion. Nothing is more common than to hear talk about rotten teeth; *the teeth never rot*. The experiment has been made of burying an extracted tooth in a heap of putrefying matter, and keeping it in that state for years. And it comes out as sound as it went in. The teeth rot if injured internally, just as your hand rots if you get a thorn in it; and the internal and still more highly organized —*i. e.*, more nervous and vascular parts, are exposed to the influence of external agents.

The causes which lead to these morbid processes resulting in the decay of teeth, are not now fully understood. The Americans, especially American women, are to a certainty more subject to diseases of the teeth than the people of other countries. How far climate or the modes of living, separately or conjoined, may contribute to this effect, is not known. Those who enjoy robust health, seldom have the teeth extensively diseased. Such individuals now and then have a tug with the toothache, but when the offending member is "cut off," the trouble ceases; while others have the best years of their lives embittered by this scourge. In the present state of our knowledge, on this subject, our directions for the *prevention* of diseases of the teeth must necessarily be very general. It is not known that these diseases are occasioned by taking food or drinks, hot or cold, sweet or sour. Chemical agents indeed have little or nothing to do with the matter. A healthy state of the digestive organs is the only circumstance known to exert an influence favorable to the integrity of the teeth. The mechanical process of brushing the teeth daily should never be omitted, if the only object were cleanliness. It is, however, beneficial by preventing the formation of the vile calcareous crusts, called tartar, which surround the teeth, and sooner or later separate them from the gums and render them useless. But it is doubtful if the brush has any tendency to prevent the caries or internal diseases of the teeth of which I have been speaking.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 29, 1839.

PRESERVATION OF HEARING.

Such is the title of another of Mr. Curtis's pamphlets for popular reading, very neatly executed, typographically, and also on sale at Ticknor's, where medical books abound. A principal object of the author seems to be, to advise in relation to the choice and use of ear trumpets. In discoursing upon this topic, however, he surveys the whole field of acoustics, and throws much light on obscure and controverted points in the physiology of the ear. Although this treatise has run through eight editions, it is but a synopsis of a finished production on the same subject, of more voluminous dimensions, to be adverted to hereafter. As Mr. Curtis is a stickler for economy, he will be likely to find both friends and patrons in this country, where it is no easy matter for a man who earns but a dollar a-day, to purchase an ear trumpet of silver at a cost of fifty dollars. There is an error abroad in supposing that a tube constructed of the precious metals conducts the sonorous rays with more effect than one of iron or brass. Mr. Curtis says that "the cheapest and even the most unsightly trumpets are often the best; and a common tin one, of the value of half a crown, collects more sound and renders the hearing more acute, than the German silver ears which cannot be obtained, if properly made, under £25."

There is a miserable contrivance in many of the druggists' shops, fabricated of a spiral spring, coated with gum elastic, having an ivory trumpet at one end, and an ivory pipe to insert into the meatus at the other. The defect in this instrument is, that the tube possesses no advantages by being so long; in fact, it is a serious objection. Again, the gum elastic destroys, to a considerable degree, the vibration of the metal, and the aerial impulsions are therefore transmitted under modifications that enfeeble the action on the auditory apparatus within the labyrinth. And, lastly, another objection to the machine, is its enormous price, which places it quite beyond the reach of those in moderate circumstances.

Restoration of a Club-foot.—On Friday, the 17th inst., Dr. Brown performed the operation for club-foot, on a lady 29 years of age. The foot was drawn downwards and inwards, so that for this long period she had walked in extreme pain, on the top, instead of the sole of the foot. The weight of the body has been borne on the os cuboides astragalus and metatarsal bones of the small toes—producing over them a thickening similar to a heel. The operation was performed by dividing the tendo-Achillis, which retracted nearly an inch. The tendon of the flexor longus digitorum pedis was divided in the sole of the foot—and the tibialis anticus, where it passes the os naviculare. The operation was successful, the foot immediately brought nearly straight, and its position so changed that were the patient to stand, the pressure would come upon the sole of the foot. She is now doing well, and bids fair to have the perfect use of the foot which has been so distorted from birth.

Painful Affection of a Nerve.—In consequence of a slight injury, some years since, it is supposed by stepping unguardedly, a bright, intelligent little boy, at Charlestown, opposite this city, has suffered very frequently with intense and excruciating pain in a portion of the anterior tibial nerve of the left leg, about four inches above the ankle. No conception can be formed of the horrible suffering, at times, of this poor child. From a condition of perfect comfort, he is instantaneously thrown into a paroxysm of the most dreadful pain that it is possible for a human being to endure—and then, just as instantaneously, the pain leaves him. All this, however, is undermining a naturally good constitution, embitters his life with the gloomiest forebodings, and wears upon the fountain of sympathy in his devoted and excellent parents, who are indeed deeply afflicted—without having it in their power to offer a single palliative to their stricken child in these hours of distress. All the usual measures seem to have been pursued, as the advice of the most distinguished physicians and surgeons in this vicinity has been followed. Not long ago Dr. Lewis made an incision, divided the nerve, and even took a portion of it out, without materially diminishing the patient's agony. On dividing the fascia, however, transversely, we understand a sensation of extreme tension was removed from the point of pain—and he was supposed to have been made perfectly well by the operation. For several months he remained so, but the paroxysms have again returned with accumulated fury. What shall be done to give permanent relief? The suggestions of our correspondents would be gratefully received.

Valedictory Address of Dr. Beck.—At the close of the lectures in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of New York, Dr. John B. Beck, the professor of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence, delivered a discourse, which is characterized by that elevation of thought, which is one of the distinguishing features of this gentleman's productions. The students say, in their note, requesting a copy for the press, "it was resolved that a committee be appointed to present the cordial thanks of the class to you, for your masterly analysis and exposition of the necessity for mental discipline in the pursuit of medical excellence." It is laid up with our choice collection of native medical writings, with a hope that there will be an opportunity to republish some of it hereafter. Those who read the address carefully, will be both instructed and entertained by it.

A third Medical School in Philadelphia.—From the various articles in the papers, in connection with the manifestation of feeling by private correspondents, it is very certain that a third school has been projected at Philadelphia. Now the general objection raised against the project is this, viz., it is not needed, there being two already. But the friends of the scheme are indomitably persevering, and show so clearly that by creating facilities, the students will congregate there, in preference to all other places in the Union, that it is not at all unlikely a third school will receive a charter.

Acarus Scabiei.—Although engravings of the itch insect have been given in works of science, and the journals have teemed with minute details of its exact external conformation, the world is still full of doubters.

Dr. Gordon called upon us the other day with one of these mooted individuals—an almost invisible point to the naked eye—which he took the day before from a person who had been six months afflicted with the itch. It seems that a question arose amongst the learned in pathology, what ailed the man. Dr. Gordon suspected the true character of the complaint, and to put the matter beyond all question, detected under the skin, where it burrows, on the very margin of a vesicle, a genuine acarus. This he has exhibited repeatedly in a powerful microscope, which enlarges the mite to the size of a filbert, and which crawled about over a concave glass with an activity that surprised the spectators. On the whole, there is no animal form in nature so completely anomalous or disgusting—particularly when it is recollected that the human body is its appropriate home. The question is now placed beyond any further controversy—itch is caused by the presence of an insect, and is essentially local irritation produced by it. One reason why those who have been unsuccessful in detecting it, have not succeeded, was probably because they always examined the fluid, when, in fact, the acarus scuds under the skin, from place to place, always avoiding, it would seem, the locality where its depredations has caused the excretion of a fluid. Thus, by fleeing, as it were, before the fire that it has kindled, or rather the flood that is in pursuit, it propagates the malady extensively over the body.

Partial Sweating.—Dr. S. S. Marcy, of Cold Spring, N. J., relates a remarkable case of this kind, in the last No. of the American Journal of Medical Sciences—which No., by the way, contains a large amount of valuable practical matter. A man of temperate habits, who formerly suffered from fever and ague, has, for the last six years, been subject to profuse perspiration, altogether disproportionate to the exercise taken. When in a recumbent posture on one side, the sweating is confined to the upper half of the body and extremities, the under side being void of any moisture. On turning, the perspiration subsides on the side he has been lying on, and commences on the upper side again; the temperature remains natural. While in an erect posture, the sweating is confined to the left side—his face on that side sometimes being covered with pearly drops, while the opposite is entirely free from moisture.

Dropsical Child.—An unusual case of abdominal dropsy recently occurred, in Broad street, Boston, in a boy, nine years old. The operation of paracentesis abdominis was performed on Monday, May 20th, by Dr. Willard, of Charlestown, when seven quarts of limpid fluid were drawn off by a trochar. The patient was greatly relieved, and there is fair prospect of recovery.

Massachusetts Medical Society.—The annual discourse before the Medical Societyt his day, will be delivered by Dr. Hale, at 1 o'clock, P. M. The advertisement, last week, was printed as received from the Secretary.

Cause of the Loss of Voice in Clergymen.—We are in a fair way of having this question satisfactorily investigated by the most competent persons. Our readers are respectfully recommended to read an interesting

article in this day's Journal, which was prepared by a very distinguished professional gentleman who resides in a neighboring State. The coming week another paper, from our venerable friend, will appear, and also one written by Dr. Woodward, of Worcester. The subject has been taken up by the editor of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, and his remarks, which coincide, in the main, with those of Dr. Mauran, with a reference to several cases, will be copied into our pages as soon as we can find space.

Willoughby University.—A constant flow of prosperity seems to attend the medical department of this flourishing institution. Although the youngest in the series of similar schools, it is gaining character with a steady hand. One cause of the success has arisen from the persevering industry of the faculty, united to courteous manners and true kindness of heart towards those who seek instruction at the University. The catalogue for 1839 is on file.—It is of consequence to receive the last catalogue which has been published, from all the medical colleges in the Union, by July. Those wishing to announce alterations or intelligence of any sort, which will be of service to the faculty, to students, or the public generally, are earnestly requested to send to the address of this Journal seasonably.

Transylvania University.—We learn from the Lexington Intelligencer, that in addition to liberal donations from individuals, the City Council of Lexington, by an ordinance passed unanimously, has made a grant of $70,000 to the University and its departments, of which $20,000 are to be applied to the Morrison School, $5000 to the law department, and $45,000 to the medical department. Besides this grant, the Transylvania Institute has received a fund exceeding $30,000 for the Academical department, which it is expected will be increased to $40,000. A new and splendid edifice is to be erected immediately for the medical department, and a library and apparatus provided. For the library of the law department, purchases to the amount of about $5000 are to be made.

Effects of Tobacco on Lobsters.—During the recent gales a large ship from Demarara, bound to Liverpool, was driven ashore on the Isle of Anglesea. The crew were saved by the life boat, but the ship soon went to pieces, and the tobacco, with which she was principally laden, was washed among the crevices of the rocks usually occupied by generations of lobsters; these took to *chewing* "the weed," and the next morning the beach was strewed with the poor creatures, some weighing 10 pounds, unable to crawl.

Preparations of Gold in Scrofula.—The preparations of gold have been recently employed by M. Baudelocque, at the Hospital of Sick Children, and by M. Velpeau at La Charité, in cases of scrofula. At the former of these two hospitals the preparations of gold have been administered in enormous doses. M. Baudelocque has given the hydrochlorate and stannate of gold, in doses of from ten to twelve grains, without producing any effect on the disease; and, what is still more remarkable, without any apparent injury to the constitution of the children submitted to experiment. The oxide of gold, prepared by potash, was administered in

as high as twenty grains during the day. At La Charité, M. Velpeau has given 16, 18 and 20 grains of the hydrochlorate and oxide of gold during the day. Higher doses were not tried, merely on account of the great expense of the medicine. The above results are curious, because the preparations of gold have hitherto been regarded as extremely poisonous. M. Orfila says that the hydrocholate of gold is infinitely more active than the corrosive sublimate, and M. Devergie mentions that at the dose of one-tenth to one-twentieth of a grain it produces more or less inflammation of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane.—*L'Experience.*

Medical Miscellany.—Drs. Charles M. Maxwell and Samuel Jackson are the Assistant Surgeons, and Dr. Thomas Dillan, Surgeon, of the Constitution, destined for the Pacific. Dr. J. M. Minor is Assistant, but Acting Surgeon of the Brig Dolphin, from Rio Janeiro, at New York.—Mr. Combe has had the compliment of a piece of plate, at New York, on the completion of his second course of phrenological lectures.—Assistant Surgeon J. B. Wells is ordered on duty at the Surgeon General's office. Dr. D. S. Edwards is to enter upon service at the Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.—A new medical board for locating a marine hospital on the upper waters of the Ohio, is in session at Pittsburgh.—Dr. Hogan, who wounded M'Ardle, in a duel, at Vicksburgh, formerly edited Duff Green's Medical Journal, in connection with Dr. Patterson.—Dr. William Parker, late of Cincinnati, has been appointed to the Chair of Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, vacated by the resignation of Dr. A. G. Smith.—Dr. Alexander A. Vache has been elected Physician of the New York Almshouse.—The British National Vaccine Establishment have vaccinated, by their several appointed vaccinators, during the last year, 18,659 persons, being 6241 more than they have vaccinated in any former year. They have also sent out, to various parts of the world, 203,818 charges of lymph. They state, in their last annual report, their conviction that the lymph in use has not deteriorated, although it has passed through, since Jenner's time, as they very erroneously say, nearly a million of subjects *successively*.—Mr. Crampton, the celebrated Irish surgeon, has been raised to the dignity of baronet.—The operation of tapping the head for chronic hydrocephalus in a girl aged 13 years, who had been affected since birth, was lately performed at the South Dispensary, Liverpool; but the child died on the tenth day. The fluid evacuated was perfectly transparent and colorless, and amounted to eight ounces.—Some curious and apparently well-authenticated cases of embryotic influence are related in the late numbers of the London Lancet, together with a discussion on the subject at a meeting of the Westminster Medical Society.

MARRIED,—In Charlestown, Ms., John A. Briggs, M.D., of Newburyport, to Louisa N. Devens.—In Boston, Dr. Samuel M. Watson, to Miss Elizabeth M. Carter.—In Southbury, Conn., Dr. J. N. Northrop, to Miss Nancy Peck.—In Bristol, Dr. J. W. Camp, to Miss Lucy A. Brewster.—In New York, Dr. D. B. W. Camp, to Miss Fanny J. Fox.—In Litchfield, Conn., Dr. J. Q. Stearns, of New York, to Miss Louisa C. Judd.

DIED,—At Columbia, S. C., Dr. Thomas Cooper, 80.—At Needham, Mass., Dr. Isaac Morril, 91.—At New York, Dr. John B. Jaques, 65.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending May 25, 27. Males, 13—females, 14.
Of consumption, 3—intemperance, 2—apoplexy, 1—infantile, 3—fits, 1—scarlet fever, 3—lung fever, 1—hooping cough, 2—delirium tremens, 1—fever, 1—stillborn, 1.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held at the Temple, Tremont street, on Wednesday, 29th inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The annual discourse will be delivered at 1 o'clock, by Enoch Hale, M.D.

Literary gentlemen interested in medical science, and students in medicine, are respectfully invited to attend.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors will be held on the day following, at the Society's Room, Athenæum Buildings, Pearl street.

S. D. TOWNSEND, Recording Secretary.

M. 29—3w

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

Oct. 31—eptf

BROWN'S PATENT SELF-INJECTING APPARATUS.

THE undersigned respectfully calls the attention of medical practitioners to a newly invented instrument, which is for sale at his store, No. 481 Washington street, corner of Elliot street. If physicians would examine the principles of its construction, they would appreciate its usefulness, and would probably be induced to recommend it very generally in their practice. Physicians, druggists, and the inhabitants of Boston, are particularly invited to look into the superiority of this article over the inventor's former instrument, as it now has the advantage of Goodyear's new India Rubber, which is allowed by all to be an entirely different article from that formerly manufactured.

Feb. 6—eoply WILLIAM BROWN,

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE subscribers, at their private medical school in Tremont street, offer the following facilities to professional students.

1. A daily attendance at the wards of the Massachusetts General Hospital.
2. Attendance at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.
3. Opportunities of seeing interesting cases and surgical operations in private practice, in the dispensaries and elsewhere.
4. Occasional opportunities for obstetric practice.
5. Lectures on surgery, and practical demonstrations in anatomy from recent subjects.
6. Regular examinations, as far as desired, in all the branches, in the interval between the lectures of Harvard University.
7. A private dissecting room, in which during the last year an abundant supply of anatomical subjects has been gratuitously furnished.

Eighteen gentlemen have entered this school since its commencement in September last.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, May 15, 1839. 2am6m

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving Medical Instruction. Students will be admitted to the medical and surgical departments of the Massachusetts General Hospital, may see cases in one of the Dispensary Districts, and have abundant opportunities for observing the smallpox and varioloid diseases. They will receive clinical instruction upon the cases which they witness, and during the interval of the regular lectures at the College, they will receive instruction by lectures and recitations upon the various departments of medical science. Ample opportunities will be afforded for the cultivation of Practical Anatomy. They have access to a large library, and are provided with a study, free of expense.

Applications may be made to either of the subscribers.

M. S. PERRY, M.D.
H. I. BOWDITCH, M.D.
J. V. C. SMITH, M.D.
H. G. WILEY, M.D.

July 25—eoptN—emtJy

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